

RETIREMENT CEREMONY SCRIPT
(INSERT RETIREE’S NAME)
UNITED STATES NAVY

Enclosure (8)

1300 – (PARTICIPANTS ARRIVE. COMMENCE PRACTICE AND FINAL WALK THROUGH. ENSURE RECEPTION AREA IS READIED, AWARDS TABLE IS SET-UP, MUSIC IS READY AND BELL IS IN PLACE)

1330 – (USHERS, ESCORTS, AND SIDEBOYS MUSTER IN (LOCATION OF CEREMONY) FOR BRIEFING)

1330 – (ESCORTS STAND-BY TO ESCORT VISITORS TO THEIR SEATS IN THE (LOCATION OF CEREMONY))

1345 – (MASTER OF CEREMONIES TAKES POSITION. BEGIN PRELUDE MUSIC)

1355 – ((XXXXXXXXXXXXX) AND (XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX) TAKE THEIR SEATS)

1359 – (PRELUDE MUSIC TERMINATES)

1400 – (RETIREMENT CEREMONY COMMENCES)

MC : “GOOD AFTERNOON LADIES AND GENTLEMEN. ON BEHALF OF COMMANDER, NAVY RECRUITING COMMAND, WELCOME... AND THANK YOU FOR JOINING US ON THE OCCASION OF (XXXX XXXXXXXX XXXXXXXXXXXXX) RETIREMENT FROM THE UNITED STATES NAVY.

IN JUST A FEW MINUTES; _____ WILL BE ARRIVING, AND WE WILL RENDER HONORS TO THE OFFICIAL PARTY. THE CEREMONY WILL COMMENCE WITH THE PLAYING OF THE NATIONAL ANTHEM, FOLLOWED BY THE INVOCATION OFFERED BY (CHAPLAIN OR INDIVIDUAL SELECTED BY THE RETIREE).”

MC : “WILL THE GUESTS PLEASE RISE AND REMAIN STANDING FOR THE ARRIVAL OF THE OFFICIAL PARTY, THE NATIONAL ANTHEM, AND THE INVOCATION.”

(NOTE: 2 SIDEBOYS ARE ALREADY IN PLACE, WITH 4 OF 6 STANDING 1 PACE BACK)

(BOS’N GIVES 2 VEERS ON PIPE TO CUE 2 SIDEBOYS TO TAKE ONE STEP FORWARD.)

(BELL RINGER STRIKES 4 BELLS.)

MC :“CAPTAIN, UNITED STATES NAVY, ARRIVING”

(OFFICIATING OFFICER PIPED ABOARD THROUGH 4 SIDEBOYS AND TAKES HIS/HER PLACE IN FRONT OF THE CHAIR.)

(BOS’N GIVES 2 VEERS ON PIPE TO CUE 2 SIDEBOYS TO TAKE ONE STEP FORWARD.)

(BELL RINGER STRIKES 6 BELLS.)

MC : “NAVY RECRUITING COMMAND, ARRIVING”

(COMMANDER XXXXXXXXXXXX PIPED THROUGH 6 SIDEBOYS AND REMAINS AT THE END OF THE CARPET FOR 2 RUFFLES AND FLOURISHES AND ADMIRAL’S MARCH.)

(COMMANDER XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX PROCEEDS TO HIS/HER PLACE ON THE STAGE.)

MC : “BOATSWAIN, POST THE SIDEBOYS.”

(BOATSWAIN’S MATE WILL GIVE ORDER FOR SIDEBOYS TO POST.)

MC : “COLOR GUARD, PARADE THE COLORS.”

(COLOR GUARD PARADES THE COLORS.)

(ONCE COLOR GUARD IS IN PLACE THE NATIONAL ANTHEM WILL BE PLAYED.)

(UPON COMPLETION OF THE NATIONAL ANTHEM. RETIRE THE COLORS.)..

MC : “RETIRE THE COLORS.”

(COLOR GUARD EXITS THE CEREMONY).

MC : “ Xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx WILL NOW DELIVER THE INVOCATION.”

(UPON COMPLETION OF INVOCATION. THE MC ANNOUNCES)...

MC : “WILL THE GUESTS PLEASE BE SEATED. MILITARY GUESTS PLEASE UNCOVER AND REMAIN UNCOVERED UNTIL THE CONCLUSION OF THE CEREMONY.”

MC : – “(COMNAVCRUITCOM), Xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx, HONORED GUESTS, SHIPMATES, FAMILY AND FRIENDS, WE’D LIKE TO WELCOME YOU TO THIS SPECIAL OCCASION MARKING THE RETIREMENT OF (INSERT RETIREES NAME).”

WE ARE GATHERED THIS AFTERNOON TO WITNESS THE FINAL STAGE IN A VERY FULL AND PRODUCTIVE (INSERT NUMBER OF YEARS)-YEAR NAVY CAREER. WE'RE ALSO GATHERED TO SAY THANKS TO A GOOD SHIPMATE. THANKS FOR HIS/HER MANY CONTRIBUTIONS WHICH IN THEIR OWN UNIQUE WAY HAVE MADE OUR NAVY A STRONGER AND MORE CAPABLE FORCE IN THE NEVER-ENDING BATTLE FOR PEACE IN THIS SOMETIMES TROUBLED WORLD. THE RETIREMENT CEREMONY YOU'RE ABOUT TO WITNESS IS A TIME HONORED NAVAL TRADITION. JUST AS THIS CEREMONY MARKS THE END OF ONE PHASE IN HIS/HER LIFE, IT ALSO MARKS THE BEGINNING OF ANOTHER. THIS GATHERING GIVES US AN OPPORTUNITY TO WISH HIM/HER EVERY SUCCESS IN THE FUTURE AS HE/SHE LOOKS FORWARD TO NEW CHALLENGES AND REWARDS. WE EXTEND AN ESPECIALLY WARM WELCOME TO (NAME) WIFE, (NAME) HIS CHILDREN (NAME). TO HIS/HER PARENTS, (NAME) AND THEIR FAMILY. WE ARE SO GLAD YOU COULD JOIN US TODAY. WE KNOW THAT EACH OF YOU, MORE THAN ANY ONE OF US, KNOWS THE SACRIFICES THAT (INSERT NAME) HAS MADE IN A CAREER THAT SPANS OVER (INSERT NUMBER OF YEARS) YEARS IN THE SERVICE OF OUR COUNTRY. ON BEHALF OF THE ENTIRE COMMAND WE'RE PLEASED TO HAVE YOU WITH US TODAY.

MC : "AT THIS TIME, I'D LIKE TO INVITE TO THE PODIUM (INSERT GUEST SPEAKER NAME), DIRECTOR OF (INSERT CODE), NAVY RECRUITING COMMAND."

(GUEST SPEAKER– REMARKS.)

MC : “IT GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE TO INTRODUCE OUR BOSS, WHOSE OUTSTANDING CAREER ACHIEVEMENTS ARE BRIEFLY NOTED IN THE RETIREMENT PROGRAM, (INSERT COMMANDERS NAME), COMMANDER, NAVY RECRUITING COMMAND.”

(COMNAVCRUITCOM – REMARKS.)

MC – “(INSET RETIREES NAME) WIFE, (INSERT NAME) WILL NOW BE ESCORTED TO THE PODIUM.”

(COMNAVCRUITCOM AND (INSERT RETIREES NAME) STEP TO THE PODIUM.)

(HIS SPOUSE WILL TAKE HER PLACE ON THE STAGE.)

(MC : READS (SPOUSE) CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION WHILE COMNAVCRUITCOM PRESENTS. ORDER OF PRESENTATION WILL BE CITATION THEN FLOWERS.)

MC “COMNAVCRUITCOM WILL NOW PRESENT _(INSERT RETIREE’S NAME) WIFE (INSERT SPOUSE NAME) WITH A CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION. THE CERTIFICATE READS AS FOLLOWS:

“CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION FROM THE UNITED STATES NAVY. TO ALL WHO SHALL SEE THESE PRESENTS, GREETINGS: TODAY YOUR SPOUSE AND WILL COMPLETE OVER TWENTY-EIGHT YEARS OF ACTIVE MILITARY SERVICE. WHEN CONSIDERING A CAREER IN

THE NAVY, ONE FREQUENTLY THINKS OF THE HARDSHIP TO WHICH THE NAVY MEMBER IS SUBJECTED. WHILE NOT DETRACTING FROM HIS THOSE PERSONAL SACRIFICES, I AM INCLINED TO THINK THAT THE SPOUSES OF OUR CAREER PERSONNEL DESERVE EVEN GREATER CREDIT FOR MAKING SACRIFICES. THE LONG SEPARATIONS, THE LONELINESS OF NIGHTS WHEN A HUSBAND MUST STAND THE WATCH, AND THE MOVES AFTER EACH TOUR ALL DEMAND MUCH OF THE NAVY SPOUSE. TO DO THEIR SHARE OF THE NAVY FAMILY'S JOB, YOU MUST BE A WIFE, A MOTHER, A FATHER, A CARPENTER, AN ELECTRICIAN, A HOMEMAKER, A CHAUFFEUR, A MOVING VAN CREW, A FOREMAN, A GARDNER, AND A MECHANIC. ALTHOUGH YOU HAVE NEVER STOOD AN INSPECTION OR RENDERED A SALUTE, I FEEL THAT THE SUPPORT YOU HAVE GIVEN YOUR SPOUSE AND CAN BE RIGHTLY TERMED AS A SERVICE TO YOUR COUNTRY.

BECAUSE OF YOUR OUTSTANDING SUPPORT, YOUR SPOUSE WAS ABLE TO COMPLETE AN HONORABLE AND FAITHFUL CAREER IN KEEPING WITH THE HIGHEST TRADITIONS OF THE NAVAL SERVICE.

BY THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME, IT IS MY PLEASURE TO EXPRESS THE GRATFUL APPRECIATION OF THE UNITED STATES NAVY, TO YOU, FOR YOUR UNSELFISH, FAITHFUL, AND DEDICATED ASSISTANCE DURING THE NAVAL SERVICE OF YOUR HUSBAND. YOUR UNFAILING SUPPORT AND UNDERSTANDING HAVE HELPED IMMEASURABLY TO MAKE POSSIBLE YOUR SPOUSE'S NAVAL CAREER. ON BEHALF OF THE MEN AND WOMEN OF NAVY RECRUITING COMMAND AND THE NAVY DEPARTMENT, I EXPRESS MY APPRECIATION FOR A JOB WELL DONE. SIGNED (INSERT NAME OF COMNAVCRUITCOM), UNITED STATES NAVY.

MC : WILL (INSERT RETIREE'S NAME) CHILDREN PLEASE STEP UP TO THE PODIUM?

(INSERT RETIREE'S NAME) CHILDREN WILL NOW TAKE THEIR PLACE ON THE STAGE TO RECEIVE THEIR CERTIFICATES.)

(MC : READS THE CERTIFICATE.)

MC : “COMNAVCRUITCOM WILL NOW PRESENT CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION TO (INSERT RETIREE’S NAME) CHILDREN, (INSERT CHILDRENS NAME) THE CERTIFICATE READS AS FOLLOWS:

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION FROM THE UNITED STATES NAVY. TO ALL WHO SHALL SEE THESE PRESENTS, GREETINGS. THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT (INSERT NAMES) HAVE LIVED THE CHILDREN’S VIGIL, THE VIGIL OF WAITING WHILE YOUR FATHER ANSWERED THE CALL OF DUTY, THE CALL OF A SAILOR SUMMONED TO FOREIGN LANDS. THE DANCES AND PROMS, THE PLAYS, THE BIRTHDAYS AND OTHER DATES IMPORTANT TO A GROWING CHILD, ALL EVENTS THAT HAPPENED WHILE YOUR FATHER WAS PROUDLY SERVING HIS COUNTRY. THROUGH ILLNESS, FRIENDSHIP, PACKOUTS AND NEW SCHOOLS, YOU LIVED THE VIGIL. NOW AS YOUR FATHER / MOTHER PREPARES TO RETIRE FROM ACTIVE DUTY, YOUR VIGIL WILL END. WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE THE UNSELFISH, FAITHFUL SUPPORT AND DEDICATED EFFORTS ON YOUR BEHALF, HELPING TO MAKE POSSIBLE YOUR FATHER’S/ MOTHER’S DECISION TO COMPLETE HIS NAVAL CAREER. SIGNED G E VOELKER, REAR ADMIRAL, UNITED STATES NAVY.

MC : “(INSERT RETIREE’S NAME) WILL NOW PRESENT HIS MOTHER WITH FLOWERS”

(MC – (INSERT RETIREE’S NAME) WIFE AND CHILDREN WILL BE ESCORTED BACK TO THEIR SEATS.)

(((INSERT RETIREES NAME)) AND COMNAVCRUITCOM WILL REMAIN STANDING AT THE PODIUM.)

MC : “MILITARY PERSONNEL ATTENTION TO ORDERS, GUESTS PLEASE RISE.”

(MC : READS AWARD WHILE COMNAVCRUITCOM PRESENTS.)

MC : “ALL GUESTS PLEASE BE SEATED.”

**MC : “COMNAVCRUITCOM WILL NOW PRESENT (INSERT RETIREE’S NAME) WITH HIS
PRESIDENTIAL CERTIFICATE.**

THE PRESIDENTIAL CERTIFICATE READS AS FOLLOWS:

**“I EXTEND TO YOU MY PERSONAL THANKS AND THE SINCERE APPRECIATION OF OUR
NATION FOR YOUR HONORABLE SERVICE. YOU HELPED TO MAINTAIN THE SECURITY OF
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA WITH A DEVOTION TO DUTY THAT IS IN KEEPING WITH
THE PROUD TRADITION OF OUR ARMED FORCES. I HONOR YOUR SERVICE AND RESPECT
THE COMMITMENT AND LOYALTY YOU DISPLAYED OVER THE YEARS. MY BEST WISHES TO
YOU FOR HAPPINESS AND SUCCESS IN THE FUTURE. SIGNED, COMMANDER IN CHIEF,
GEORGE ‘W’ BUSH.”**

MC : “COMNAVCRUITCOM WILL NOW PRESENT (INSERT RETIREE’S NAME) WITH HIS RETIREMENT CERTIFICATE.

(MC WILL READ CERTIFICATE.)

(READ RETIREMENT CERTIFICATE.)

MC : “THE COMMAND MASTER CHIEF WILL NOW PRESENT A LETTER OF APPRECIATION FROM THE MASTER CHIEF PETTY OFFICER OF THE NAVY”.

(MC : (READ MCPON’S LETTER WHILE CMC PRESENTS.) (THIS WILL BE PRESENTED TO E7, E8 & E9 RETIREES)

“AS MASTER CHIEF PETTY OFFICER OF THE NAVY, I JOIN ALL CHIEF PETTY OFFICERS IN EXPRESSING SINCERE APPRECIATION AND BOUNDLESS GRATITUDE FOR YOUR SACRIFICES AND DEDICATION GIVEN TO GUARD OUR COUNTRY’S FREEDOM. I AM THANKFUL THAT, AS A MEMBER OF THE CHIEF PETTY OFFICER COMMUNITY, YOU HAVE CONTINUED OUR PROUD CPO TRADITION OF BEING THE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND THE FINEST NAVY EVER. YOUR CONTINUED LEADERSHIP AND EXAMPLE IN THIS FINAL ASSIGNMENT TO THE RETIRED NAVY ARE BOTH WELCOMED AND EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO THE CONTINUED SUCCESS OF OUR GREAT NAVY.

YOUR SHIPMATES AND I ARE INDEBTED TO YOUR FOR YOUR UNSELFISH LEADERSHIP, UNFAILING LOYALTY AND PERSEVERANCE ALL THESE YEARS. AS YOU LEAVE OUR NAVY, THE SHIPMATES YOU LEAVE BEHIND OWE YOU A GREAT DEAL OF GRATITUDE FOR THE LASTING IMPACT YOU MADE AND FOR THE THOUSANDS OF YOUNG SAILORS TRAINED BY YOU TO CARRY US INTO THE FUTURE.

I THANK YOU AND BID YOU FAIR WINDS AND FOLLOWING SEAS. SIGNED, SINCERELY, (INSERT NAME OF CURRENT) MCPON

MC : (INSERT NAME OF PERSON READING) WILL READ THE CHIEF PETTY OFFICER'S RETIREMENT CREED. (THIS WILL BE PRESENTED TO E7, E8 & E9 RETIREES)

((INSERT NAME OF PERSON READING)) WILL STEP TO THE PODIUM AND READ THE FOLLOWING)

MC “(INSERT NAME OF RETIREE) FRONT AND CENTER. (WILL BE PRESENTED TO E7, E8 & E9 RETIREES)

“THE CHIEF PETTY OFFICER COMMUNITY TAKES PLEASURE IN PRESENTING TO (INSERT RETIREE'S NAME), UNITED STATES NAVY THE FOLLOWING RETIREMENT CREED.

YOU HAVE THIS DAY EXPERIENCED THAT WHICH COMES TO ALL OF US WHO SERVE ON ACTIVE DUTY IN ‘OUR NAVY.’

I SAY ‘OUR NAVY’ BECAUSE YOUR DEPARTURE FROM ACTIVE DUTY IN NO WAY TERMINATES YOUR RELATIONSHIP, REGARD, OR OBLIGATION TO THE UNITED STATES NAVY AND YOUR FELLOW CHIEF PETTY OFFICERS. BY LAW AND TRADITION, U.S. NAVY RETIREES ARE ALWAYS ON THE ROLLS – EVER READY TO LEND THEIR SERVICE WHEN THE NEED ARISES. THE RESPECT THAT YOU EARNED AS ‘THE CHIEF’ WAS BASED ON THE SAME ATTRIBUTES THAT YOU WILL NOW CARRY INTO RETIREMENT. YOU SHOULD HAVE NO REGRETS AND SHOULD NOT VIEW YOUR RETIREMENT AS AN END OF AN ERA, BUT RATHER AS ORDERS TO A NEW AND CHALLENGING ASSIGNMENT, TO A FORM OF INDEPENDENT DUTY. REMEMBER WELL THAT YOU HAVE BEEN, AND WILL ALWAYS BE AN ACCEPTED MEMBER OF THE MOST EXCLUSIVE OF ALL MARITIME FRATERNITIES – THAT OF THE U.S. NAVY CHIEF PETTY OFFICERS.

(INSERT RETIREE’S NAME), ACTIVE DUTY CHIEFS SALUTE YOU, RETIRED CHIEFS WELCOME YOU – AND WE WISH YOU THE TRADITIONAL ‘FAIR WINDS AND FOLLOWING SEAS.’

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND, SIGNED TERRY SCOTT, MASTER CHIEF PETTY OFFICER OF THE NAVY.”

MC : “FLAG DETAIL, POST.”

MC : “THE DETAIL YOU SEE BEFORE YOU, IS PREPARED TO PRESENT OUR NATIONAL ENSIGN TO (INSERT RETIREE’S NAME), UNITED STATES NAVY. THE MEMBERS REPRESENT PROGRESSION THROUGH THE RANKS.

I AM THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

MY NAME IS OLD GLORY. I FLY ATOP THE WORLD’S TALLEST BUILDINGS.

I STAND WATCH IN AMERICA’S HALLS OF JUSTICE

I FLY MAJESTICALLY OVER GREAT INSTITUTIONS OF LEARNING

I STAND GUARD WITH THE GREATEST MILITARY POWER IN THE WORLD

LOOK UP AND SEE ME!

I STAND FOR PEACE...HONOR...TRUTH AND JUSTICE.

I STAND FOR FREEDOM.

I AM CONFIDENT...I AM ARROGANT...I AM PROUD.

WHEN I AM FLOWN WITH MY FELLOW BANNERS, MY HEAD IS A LITTLE HIGHER...MY COLORS A LITTLE TRUER.

I BOW TO NO ONE.

I AM RECOGNIZED ALL OVER THE WORLD.

I AM WORSHIPPED

I AM LOVED AND

I AM FEARED!

I HAVE FOUGHT IN EVERY BATTLE OF EVERY WAR FOR MORE THAN 200 YEARS

GETTYSBURG, SHILOH, APPOMATTOX, SAN JUAN HILL, THE TRENCHES OF FRANCE, THE ARGONE FOREST, ANZIO, ROME, THE BEACHES OF NORMANDY, GUAM, OKINAWA, JAPAN, KOREA, VIETNAM, IN THE PERSIAN GULF,

AND A SCORE OF PLACES LONG FORGOTTEN, BY ALL BUT THOSE WHO WERE THERE WITH ME

I WAS THERE!

I LED MY SOLDIERS, SAILORS, AIRMEN, AND MARINES. I FOLLOWED THEM AND WATCHED OVER THEM.

THEY LOVED ME.

I WAS ON A SMALL HILL IN IWO JIMA, I WAS DIRTY, BATTLE WORN AND TIRED,

BUT, MY SOLDIERS CHEERED ME! AND I WAS PROUD!

I HAVE BEEN SOILED, TORN AND TRAMPLED ON THE STREETS OF COUNTRIES THAT I HAVE HELPED SET FREE.

IT DOES NOT HURT...FOR I AM INVINCIBLE.

I HAVE BEEN SOILED, TORN AND TRAMPLED ON THE STREETS OF MY OWN COUNTRY.

AND WHEN IT IS BY THOSE WHOM I HAVE SERVED IN BATTLE WITH...IT HURTS.

BUT I SHALL OVERCOME...FOR I AM STRONG.

I HAVE SLIPPED THE BONDS OF EARTH AND FROM MY VANTAGE POINT ON THE MOON,

I STAND WATCH OVER THE UNCHARTED NEW FRONTIERS OF SPACE.

I HAVE BEEN A SILENT WITNESS TO ALL OF AMERICA'S FINEST HOURS.

I HAVE FLOWN OVER THE TOP OF THE WORLD TRADE CENTERS. AND AFTER SEPTEMBER 11, 2001, I HAVE FLOWN OVER IT'S RUBBLE TO REMIND THE EVIL IN OUR WORLD THAT MY SPIRIT WILL NOT BE CRUSHED.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WILL NOT BE BROKEN.

BUT MY FINEST HOUR COMES WHEN I AM TORN IN STRIPS TO BE USED AS BANDAGES FOR MY WOUNDED COMRADES ON THE FIELD OF BATTLE.

WHEN I FLY AT HALF MAST TO HONOR MY SOLDIERS, MY SAILORS, MY AIRMAN, MY MARINES AND...

WHEN I LIE IN THE TREMBLING ARMS OF A GRIEVING MOTHER, AT THE GRAVESIDE OF HER FALLEN SON OR DAUGHTER.

WE HAVE SEEN THE END OF THE COLD WAR AND THE FALL OF COMMUNISM TOGETHER – YOU AND I. WE HAVE SEEN A RESURGENCE OF PATRIOTISM AND RESPECT FOR ME IN AMERICA. EVEN AS WE SPEAK, I STAND GUARD OVER AMERICA’S SONS AND DAUGHTERS IN AFGANISTAN.

TAKE ME NOW, GUARD ME, PROTECT ME AND ALWAYS REMEMBER YOU DID YOUR PART TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR ME TO BE THE MOST RECOGNIZED SYMBOL IN AMERICA.

LONG MAY I WAIVE – DEAR GOD – LONG MAY I WAIVE.

(MC : READ FLAG CERTIFICATE.)

MC : “LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, (INSERT RETIREES NAME), UNITED STATES NAVY.”

(INSERT RETIREES NAME) WILL PROCEED TO THE PODIUM

(RETIREES- REMARKS.)

MC – “WILL THE GUESTS PLEASE RISE FOR THE BENEDICTON AND REMAIN STANDING FOR THE DURATION OF THE CEREMONY”.

MC : “(INSERT NAME OF PERSON DELIVERING THE BENEDICTION) WILL NOW DELIVER THE BENEDICTION.”

(Sideboys prepare to return to their position. 4 sideboys will be used to pipe _____ ashore.)

**MC :“BOATSWAIN...STAND BY TO PIPE THE SIDE!
THIS ORDER HAS BEEN PASSED ON NAVAL SHIPS FROM THE 1500’S THROUGH TODAY.
SPANISH, FRENCH, ENGLISH, DUTCH...YES, ALL NAVIES OF THE WORLD USE THE
BOATSWAIN, SIDBOYS AND CALL TO BRING ABOARD OR SEND ASHORE ALL SHIP’S
COMPANY OFFICERS, VISITING OFFICERS, AND DIGNITARIES.**

**THE SIDBOYS WOULD HAUL ON THE ROPES AND RAISE OR LOWER THE BOARDING
PLATFORM SO OFFICERS WOULD NOT HAVE TO CLIMB THE RAT LINES WHICH WERE
HANGING OVER THE SIDE AND USED BY THE ENLISTED CREW WHEN GOING ASHORE OR TO
GET ABOARD. THIS HONOR WAS EXTENDED TO VISITING OFFICERS, DIGNITARIES, AND
PORT OFFICIALS.**

**IT WAS NOT UNCOMMON FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER OF A SHIP TO ORDER UP THE
JOLLY BOAT, A CREW OF EIGHT STRONG BACKS, SIDBOYS, AND BOATSWAIN...TO SEND AN
OLD SHIPMATE ASHORE, ASHORE TO HIS RETIREMENT HOME...NEVER TO SAIL ON NAVAL
SHIPS AGAIN.**

**ALL HANDS ON DECK WAS PASSED, SPEECHES WERE MADE ABOUT GREAT VICTORIES,
BATTLES FOUGHT UPON THE OPEN SEA, RAGING STORMS WEATHERED, AND VOYAGES TO
DISTANT AND STRANGE LANDS WITH PORTS-OF-CALL OTHERS ONLY DREAMED ABOUT.**

MC : “((INSERT RETIREES NAME)) WILL NOW REQUEST PERMISSION TO GO ASHORE FOR THE LAST TIME.”

MC - “AYE MATES, FOR ((INSERT NUMBER OF YEARS)) YEARS THIS SAILOR HAS STOOD THE WATCH. WHILE SOME OF US WERE IN SCHOOL LEARNING OUR TRADE, THIS SAILOR HAS STOOD THE WATCH. YES...EVEN BEFORE SOME OF US WERE BORN INTO THIS WORLD, THIS SHIPMATE STOOD THE WATCH. IN THOSE YEARS WHEN THE STORM CLOUDS OF WAR WERE SEEN BREWING ON THE HORIZON OF HISTORY, THIS SHIPMATE STOOD THE WATCH. MANY TIMES HE WOULD CAST AN EYE ASHORE AND SEE HIS FAMILY STANDING THERE, NEEDING HIS GUIDANCE AND HELP, NEEDING THAT HAND TO HOLD DURING THOSE HARD TIMES. BUT HE STILL STOOD THE WATCH. HE STOOD THE WATCH FOR TWENTY-SIX YEARS. HE STOOD THE WATCH SO THAT WE, OUR FAMILIES AND OUR FELLOW COUNTRYMEN COULD SLEEP SOUNDLY IN SAFETY EACH AND EVERY NIGHT, KNOWING THAT A SAILOR STOOD THE WATCH. TODAY WE ARE HERE TO SAY, SHIPMATE THE WATCH STANDS RELIEVED. RELIEVED BY THOSE YOU HAVE TRAINED, GUIDED, AND LED. SHIPMATE YOU STAND RELIEVED

BOATSWAIN...STANDBY TO PIPE THE SIDE...SHIPMATE GOING ASHORE.”

(COMNAVCRUITCOM AND ((INSERT RETIREES NAME)) WILL COVER AND APPROACH THE LECTERN.)

((INSERT RETIREES NAME)) WILL REQUEST PERMISSION TO GO ASHORE AND RADM VOELKER WILL GRANT PERMISSION.)

((INSERT RETIREES NAME)) TAKES POSITION.)

(BELL RINGER STRIKES 4 BELLS.)

MC : “(INSERT RETIREES NAME), UNITED STATES NAVY, RETIRED, DEPARTING.”

((INSERT RETIREES NAME) WALKS THROUGH SIDEBOYS AND RETURNS TO POSITION BEFORE SIDEBOYS AND AWAITS SPOUSE AND CHILDREN.)

(Usher escorts (INSERT SPOUSES NAME) and children to sideboys.)

(ANCHORS AWEIGH IS PLAYED)

(COMNAVCRUITCOM AND (INSERT GUEST SPEAKERS NAME) TAKE THEIR PLACES.)

(BELL RINGER RINGS 6 BELLS.)

MC : “NAVY RECRUITING COMMAND, DEPARTING.”

(AFTER COMNAVCRUITCOM DEPARTS, 2 SIDEBOYS TAKE 1 STEP BACKWARDS. BELL RINGER STRIKES 4 BELLS.)

MC : “(INSERT GUEST SPEAKERS NAME), UNITED STATES NAVY, DEPARTING.”

MC : “LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, (INSERT RETIREES NAME) AND HIS FAMILY WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR TAKING PART IN THIS TIME HONORED CEREMONY AND CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO THE RECEPTION IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING.